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# Giving That Looks Both Forward and Back

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## **Giving That Looks Both Forward and Back**

Tony Schuster '02 looks back fondly on his undergraduate experience at Morris. Having been involved in a variety of activities including basketball, football, and Management/Economics Club, he had a chance to take part in the wide range of extracurricular opportunities that Morris has to offer. Feeling grateful for the wealth of positive experiences he enjoyed as an undergraduate, Schuster gives so that others may have the same opportunity.

"I personally had a very positive experience while I was at UMM. I think having the opportunity to be on a liberal arts campus allows you to be continuously shaped by the liberal arts education—shaped not just in the classroom, but through friendships developed with classmates and other students."

Schuster sees a connection between the wealth of academic and extracurricular opportunities offered at Morris and its level of educational quality. Recognizing that this is no easy feat for a small liberal arts college, he views giving as an opportunity to enrich the Morris experience while keeping college education affordable at a time when tuition costs are rising more quickly than ever. That is why one of his philanthropic goals is supporting student scholarships.

"The importance of private giving is that it provides opportunities across the board and allows Morris to be what it is—a unique school that provides students all of these remarkable opportunities. As a public liberal arts institution, there's a huge need for support. Private donations can help keep education affordable for a lot of talented students who might not be able to go otherwise, with today's inflated tuition costs."

Schuster's gift also supports Athletics. Having been an active student athlete, he is both thankful for the experiences he enjoyed and hopeful that he will be able to create even more opportunities within the program.

A financial planner at Joern, Samaha, and Associates, a private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial, Schuster is a leader in today's business world. As such, he is able to recognize that all of the opportunities offered at Morris come together to create a holistic learning experience—one that prepares tomorrow's leaders for the challenges they may someday face. As president of the University of Minnesota, Morris Alumni Association and as a donor, he believes that he can play a part in supporting this important mission.

"Morris is shaping future leaders. We have a responsibility to give back and take care of it to make the world a better place."